XV

A

True Relation

Of a moſt Barbarous and

Bloody Murder

Lately Committed on the Body of

Mr. Tho. Clarke,

Miniſter and School-Maſter in the

Pariſh of St. *Margarets Weſtminſter.*

COuld we defend our ſelves by the Power of Sin from the Puniſhment that attends it, or if the deceitful Pleaſures thereof could afford us any Comfort in our Sufferings, we ſhould have ſome incouragement to be wicked; But when our utmoſt Reward is only to be Eternally Miſerable, certainly he that wilfully tranſgreſſes the Laws of God, ſins

 againſt

againſt the Light of his own Reaſon, and purchaſes Damnation at the price of his Immortal Soul: Yet notwithſtanding this great Truth, which is ſo often publiſh'd to the World, there ſtill remains too great a number of Wicked and Impenitent Sinners, who obſtinately reſiſting the workings of *God*'s Holy Spirit, go on in their Diabolical Practices, of which Murder is not the leaſt hainous, too ſad an Inſtance whereof the following Relation does make manifeſt, which begins thus:

On *Tueſday* the 23d of *October*, 1688. The Body of Mr. *Thomas Clarke*, Miniſter and Schoolmaſter, was found Murdered in his Bed in the following manner. The aforeſaid Mr. *Thomas Clarke* having the Charge of a Free-School, well known by the Name of *Palmers* School, at the *Alms-Houſes* near the *Artillery Ground* in the Pariſh of St. *Margarets-Weſtminſter*, the Boys under his Care coming at their uſual hour in the Morning, but not finding their Maſter, nor the School Dores open as cuſtomary, was the occaſion, as we are inform'd, of a ſtrict ſearch by the Neighbours after him, his dwelling Houſe being at the lower end of the Garden belonging to the School and Alms-houſes, and in his Lodging Chamber up one pair of Stairs they found him lying Murdered on his Bed, with

XV

with his right hand faſtened with a piece of Greaſie Filliting to the right poſt of the Beds Feet, and his Feet lying croſs to the left ſide of the Beds Head, with a piece of Packthread tyed about his right Leg, and a Neckcloth about his Neck of an inconſiderable value, though tis to be obſerved that he always wore Bands in the day time, and a piece of the Sheet, as it is ſuppoſed, was cut off and tyed about his Neck; as far as we can apprehend, by which piece of Sheet, or the aforementioned Neckcloath tis imagined that he was Strangled, being ſome Blood was found upon the knot of the piece of Sheet, for a certain Gentleman that was one of the Jury, and very curious in ſearching for private Wounds, found upon opening the Mouth of the Murdered Perſon, a great quantity of Coagulated Blood, which does ſufficiently demonſtrate that he was Strangled as it is before mentioned, though there was a Contuſion on the left Arm, and another upon his left Leg, both Arm and Leg not being tyed at the view of the Jury.

May the Reading of this Tragical Account learn us to abhor from the bottom of our Hearts the Bloody and Deteſtible Sin of Murder, which ſeldom or never goes Unpuniſhed, and tho God's Vengeance may ſeem to ſleep for a time, yet let not thoſe Wretched Villains, whoſe Hands were imbrued in the Blood of this Innocent Perſon deceive themſelves, for Heaven ſtill keeps a watchful Eye over ſuch Profligate Wretches whoſe Blood-Thirſtineſs ſeldom miſſes of a ſuitable Reward even in this Life.

FINIS.

Licenſed, *Novemb.* 1*ſt.* 1688.

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